

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. Claim 3 has been amended. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-7 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendment to Claim 3 can be found throughout the subject patent application, particularly, at page 6, lines 32-39.

Applicant notes that the cover page for the Official Action was missing from our mailing of the Official Action. Therefore, applicant was unable to provide the Confirmation Number in the above header.

II. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding Claim 3, the Examiner stated that it is not clear what the address is related to. (Official Action, page 2.) Claim 3 has been amended to indicate that the address is related to the parallel execution of the further command. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that it is now clear what the address recited by Claim 3 is related to. For this reason, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should now be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,287,465 to Kurosawa et al. (hereinafter, "Kurosawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner stated that Kurosawa teaches "a data processing method using a multiplicity of processors" at column 5, line 2; "which operate in parallel at column 4, line 67; "and to which a responsive command for data processing is supplied simultaneously, at least one of the processors being alternatively supplied with a program flow control command or a condition command" at column 5, line 9; and "supplying of the condition command deactivating the parallel execution of a further command in at least one of the further processors" at column 5, line 21. (Official Action, pages 2 and 3.)

Upon careful consideration and review of Kurosawa, applicant respectfully submits that Kurosawa does not disclose each and every element of Claim 1 and therefore does not anticipate the claim. Specifically, Kurosawa does not disclose (1) a data processing method using a multiplicity of processors which operate parallel and to which a respective command for data processing is supplied simultaneously; and (2) at least one of the processors being alternatively supplied with a program flow control command or a condition command which deactivates the parallel execution of a further command in at least one of the further processors, as recited by Claim 1.

The Examiner states that column 5, line 21, of Kurosawa discloses supplying of the condition command deactivating the parallel execution of a further command in at

least one of the further processors. (Official Action, page 3.) Referring to Kurosawa, the paragraph containing line 21 of column 5 describes a parallel processing apparatus comprising arithmetic units executing arithmetic operations. (Kurosawa, column 4, lines 61-67.) During operation, m instructions are first read out and decoded to check if there is a branch instruction in the k -th instruction. (Kurosawa, column 5, lines 16-19.) Next, the first to the $(k + 1)$ th instructions are executed in the $(k + 1)$ th arithmetic unit, and execution of the $(k + 2)$ th to the m -th instructions is prevented. (Kurosawa, column 5, lines 19-22.) Therefore, the execution of the first to $(k + 1)$ th instructions are executed by a single arithmetic unit before execution of the subsequent instructions is prevented. In contrast, Claim 1 recites deactivating the parallel execution of a further command by the processors. Kurosawa does not disclose the parallel execution of commands by a number of processors, as recited by Claim 1, because the instruction are only executed by a single arithmetic unit.

Further, nowhere does Kurosawa disclose supplying of a condition command deactivating the parallel execution of a further command in at least one of the further processors, wherein the condition command is supplied simultaneous with the further command, as recited by Claim 1. For example, Figure 16 of Kurosawa shows the processing flow used when an unconditional jump instruction **BRA** is executed. (Kurosawa, column 17, lines 45-47.) Instruction **BRA** and an instruction **1** are read out simultaneously. (Kurosawa, column 17, lines 47 and 48.) Next, succeeding instructions **2** and **3** are read out. (Kurosawa, column 17, lines 52 and 53.) Further, instruction **BRA** and instruction **1** are executed in parallel. (Kurosawa, column 17, lines 56 and 57.) The execution of instructions **2** and **3** is prevented by instruction **BRA**.

(Kurosawa, column 17, lines 57 and 58.) Thus, instructions **2** and **3** are not supplied simultaneously with instruction **BRA**. In contrast, Claim 1 requires that the condition command is supplied simultaneous with a command that is deactivated based on the condition command. In the case of Kurosawa, instruction **1** is read with instruction **BRA** but is not deactivated. Rather, instructions **2** and **3** are deactivated but read separate from instruction **BRA**. Thus, in this example, Kurosawa does not disclose supplying of a condition command deactivating the parallel execution of a further command in at least one of the further processors, as recited by Claim 1. In addition, nowhere does Kurosawa teach each and every feature recited by Claim 1. Thus, Kurosawa cannot anticipate Claim 1. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and the claim allowed at this time.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 2-7 include the features of Claim 1. Thus, the comments presented above relating to Claim 1 apply equally to Claims 2-7. Therefore, Claims 2-7 are believed to be patentably distinguished over Kurosawa. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and the claims allowed at this time.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

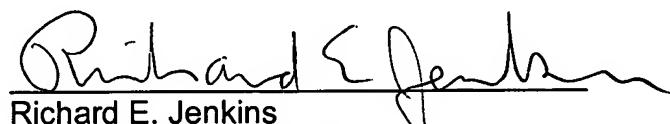
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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